Supreme Court, U. S.
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No. 75-440

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1974

FRED MANDELL,

Petitioner,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

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vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

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PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

Petitioner, Fred Mandell, prays that a writ of certiorari be issued to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Opinion Below

The opinion of the Court of Appeals, not yet reported, is reprinted as Appendix A, *infra*.

Jurisdiction

The opinion of the Court of Appeals was entered on July 30, 1975. Petitioner's petition for rehearing and suggestion for rehearing in banc, timely filed, was denied on August 25, 1975. (App. B) The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1254(1) and Rule 22.2 of the Rules of this Court.

Questions Presented

1. Was petitioner deprived of his Sixth Amendment right to effective assistance of counsel, and thereby prejudiced, by being represented at trial by the same counsel as his two co-defendants, where defense counsel, *inter alia,* emphasized petitioner's involvement in an attempt to minimize the evidence against his co-defendants, the trial court made no inquiry whether petitioner was aware of the potential risks inherent in joint representation, and there is no indication that petitioner knowingly and understandingly waived his right to separate counsel with any cognizance of the possible dangers of joint representation? Does not the Seventh Circuit's ruling conflict with decisions of the First, Third and District of Columbia Circuits?

2. Was petitioner deprived of a fair trial and of his Sixth Amendment right to confrontation by the court's improper limitation of cross-examination of the government's two chief and essential witnesses as to their interest, motive and bias? Does not the Seventh Circuit's decision conflict with decisions from other Circuits and with principles announced by this Court in *Davis* v. *Alaska,* 415 U.S. 308?

Constitutional Provisions and Statutes Involved

The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides, in pertinent part:

> "No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; . . ."

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides, in pertinent part:

> "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right . . . to be confronted with the witnesses against him; . . . and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence."

The statutes, for violation of which petitioner was convicted, are Title 18, U.S. Code, Sections 1341 (mail fraud), 1343 (wire fraud), and 2314 (interstate transportation of property obtained by fraud).

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioner, Fred Mandell, was charged (with co-defendants Enid Mandell and Ernest Fairchild) in a three-count indictment (74 CR 394) alleging wire fraud, mail fraud, and interstate transportation of property obtained by fraud. (R. 1)[1]

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[1] "R." refers to the Record on Appeal, and "Tr." to the Transcript of Proceedings, both on file in the Court of Appeals in No. 75-1111.

Count 1 alleged that defendants caused messages to be transmitted in interstate commerce by use of a telephone in furtherance of a scheme to defraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1343; Count 2 alleged that they caused the use of the mails in execution of the scheme, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1341; and Count 3 alleged that they caused the interstate transportation of monies over the value of $5,000 pursuant to said scheme, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 2314.

Essentially the scheme to defraud charged that petitioner would represent to Ira Leon and Harold Kriv that he owned civil judgments against the City of Chicago which he would sell to them at a discount. The evidence was that he sold these individuals something less than valid court judgments against the City of Chicago. The indictment charged essentially that co-defendants Enid Mandell and Ernest Fairchild aided and abetted petitioner in the scheme. (R. 1, p. 3, par. 9)

Petitioner was convicted upon all three counts.[2]

Statement of Facts

Harold Kriv, a Chicago lawyer who shared law offices with petitioners, purchased judgments against the City of Chicago from petitioner in June, 1973. On July 3, 1973 he was shot while in his office by an unknown black assailant, after which petitioner stated the judgment deals were off because of the publicity. Shortly thereafter, petitioner visited Kriv in the hospital and told his wife, Estelle Kriv, that the shooting was done by a black gang and that unless a large sum of money was paid to them, they would continue to come after Mr. Kriv and his family.

Kriv testified that Enid Mandell showed him a check for $211,000.00 dated July 5, 1973 which allegedly represented proceeds from the sale of the judgments. (Tr. 117-19) Enid Mandell testified and denied all of the accusations against her. (Tr. 1303-78) On July 18, 1973 Kriv testified he telephoned his father in Iowa and requested a

[2] Co-defendants Enid Mandell and Ernest Fairchild were both convicted upon the mail and wire fraud counts; and upon the interstate transportation count, Enid Mandell was convicted and Ernest Fairchild acquitted.

Their joint Petition for Certiorari is separately filed.

loan which petitioner suggested and as a consequence, Kriv's father mailed in a check for $15,000.00 which Kriv gave to petitioner. That sum together with other monies which Kriv raised were allegedly delivered to the black gang so that they would not bother the Krivs again.

The telephone communication by Kriv to his father and the mailing of the check by Kriv's father to him constiuted the charges in Counts 1 and 2.

With respect to Count 3, the alleged victim Ira Leon testified that he gave petitioner's secretary $58,000 in Chicago to deliver to petitioner in Las Vegas, Nevada and that the secretary, one Julia Maratto, did so. This constitutes the charges in Count 3.

The Representation

Attorney Julius Sherwin entered his appearance on behalf of all three defendants. Petitioner was a practicing attorney in Chicago. Enid Mandell was his wife whom he had just recently married, after having represented her in a divorce action. Ernest Fairchild did investigative work from time to time for petitioner. It was further shown by the evidence that Enid Mandell was a housewife, had two school age children, and was wholly and totally inexperienced in any law matters.

Petitioner engaged the services of attorney Julius Sherwin for himself and his co-defendants.

The trial court made no inquiry whether or not petitioner and his co-defendants were satisfied to be represented by the same attorney, notwithstanding it became obvious that there would be a conflict of interest.

Limitation of Cross-Examination

The facts pertaining to this issue are set forth within the argument, p. 11, *infra*.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

1.

Petitioner was deprived of his Sixth Amendment right to effective assistance of counsel, and was thereby prejudiced, by being represented at trial by the same counsel as his co-defendants, where defense counsel, inter alia, emphasized petitioner's involvement in an attempt to minimize the evidence against his co-defendants, the trial court made no inquiry whether petitioner was aware of the potential risks inherent in joint representation, and there is no indication that petitioner knowingly and understandingly waived his right to separate counsel with any cognizance of the possible dangers of joint representation. Certiorari should be allowed to resolve the conflict between the Seventh Circuit's decision and decisions of the First, Third and District of Columbia Circuits.

While recognizing the dangers inherent in joint representation by a single attorney of two or more co-defendants, (App. A, pp. 6-7), the Seventh Circuit has determined: (1) that the court has no duty to ascertain whether jointly represented multiple defendants, with full awareness of such dangers, knowingly, intelligently and understandingly waive the right to separate counsel and persist in their decision to proceed with shared counsel; (2) that the government has no burden in such a situation to demonstrate the absence of prejudice due to ineffective assistance of counsel; and (3) that in the case at bar, petitioner did not discharge his burden of demonstrating that he was in fact prejudiced by the joint representation. (App. A, pp. 7-14)

In each of these particulars, the Seventh Circuit was manifestly incorrect, and its ruling conflicts with relevant decisions from other Circuits.

Clearly, the trial judge has a duty to preserve the essential rights of the accused, specifically the right to effective assistance of counsel. *Glasser* v. *United States,* 315 U.S. 60, 70-71 (1942). In *Glasser,* this Court stressed the importance of having separate counsel represent separate co-defendants where the interests of the multiple accused may not coincide. *Ibid.*

Both the District of Columbia and First Circuits have held that the trial court has an affirmative duty to ascertain whether multiple defendants are aware of the risks inherent in joint representation.[3] Absent compliance with such a mandatory duty, upon a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel due to joint representation, the burden is on the government to demonstrate lack of prejudice beyond a reasonable doubt, as required by *Chapman* v. *California,* 386 U.S. 18, 24 (1967); *Campbell* v. *United States,* 352 F.2d 359 (D.C. Cir. 1965); *Lollar* v. *United States,* 376 F.2d 243 (D.C. Cir. 1967); *United States* v. *Foster,* 476 F.2d 1 (1 Cir. 1972).

And while the panel's opinion incorrectly states that the Third Circuit has declined, (App. A, p. 12), or refused, (App. A, p. 9, fn. 7), to adopt such a rule. (App. A, p. 12), the decision upon which this incorrect conclusion is based, *United States ex rel. Hart* v. *Davenport,* 478 F.2d 203 (3 Cir. 1973), (App. A, pp. 8-9), clearly states that the court did not need to reach the issue, inasmuch as in the case then before it, the joint representation at issue was constitutionally defective under existing doctrine, *id.* at 211,

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[3] See Petition for Certiorari of co-defendants Enid Mandell and Ernest Fairchild, separately filed, pp. 8-12, for further discussion and pertinent quotations from cited cases.

that "upon a showing of a possible conflict of interest or prejudice, however remote, we will regard joint representation as constitutionally defective." *Id.* at 210. While not reaching the issue, the court nonetheless specifically approved the District of Columbia doctrine requiring on-the-record inquiry by the trial court as to the hazards to defendants from joint representation. *Id.* at 211.

Indeed, even the Seventh Circuit approves the D.C. and First Circuit rule, noting that adoption of such a rule by the District Judges would be desirable. (App. A, p. 12, fn. 10)

The Court of Appeals' refusal to make such judicial inquiry mandatory is based on its reliance upon attorneys themselves adequately to advise multiple defendants. The Canons of Ethics specifically require attorneys to advise clients of possible conflicts of interest;[4] however, the types of prejudicial situations that may arise due to joint representation are not limited to such traditionally-thought-of conflicts as antagonistic defenses.[5] While not presuming that attorneys are knowingly violating any ethical canons, one still can envision—as in the case at bar—situations wherein joint representation—though not constituting classical conflict of interest—may result in prejudice to one or more defendants. The only solution which will suffice to insure that a defendant's choice to be represented by joint counsel is an informed one, is an on-the-record inquiry.

The court finds it worthy of note that petitioner did not assert that his attorney failed to advise him of the

[4] A.B.A. Canon of Professional Ethics 6.

[5] See A.B.A. Standards. The Defense Function § 3.5(b) (1971), and Commentary thereto, set forth in the court's opinion, App. A, pp. 6-7, & p. 7, fn. 4.

dangers of joint representation. (App. A, p. 11, fn. 9) This is incorrect; it was asserted that nothing of record demonstrated that any of the defendants had been so advised.[6] Waiver may not be presumed from a silent record as to this issue. *United States ex rel. Hart* v. *Davenport, supra,* 478 F.2d at 210; *cf. Campbell* v. *United States,* 352 F.2d 359, 361 (D.C. Cir. 1965).

The court's refusal to apply the "reasonable doubt" standard, with the burden on the government to show that the joint representation was not prejudicial, directly conflicts with holdings of the District of Columbia, First and Third Circuits. (See *Campbell, Lollar, Foster* and *Davenport, supra.*)

In determining that petitioner was not prejudiced by his jointly having been represented by the same attorney who represented his co-defendants, (App. A, p. 14), the court completely has ignored his contention that he was prejudiced because of the government's impeachment of co-defendant Fairchild, (who was subject to impeachment only because of the joint attorney's decision to have Fairchild testify), which impeachment was extremely harmful to petitioner as well. (Tr. 1226-28, 1240-41).

And the court's analysis of the purported harmlessness of defense counsel's closing argument wherein petitioner's greater involvement was highlighted in counsel's efforts to assist the other defendants, (Tr. 1513; see App. A, p. 14 & fn. 13), while logical to other lawyers and to judges, fails to take cognizance of the probable impact of this argument upon the jury.[7] The lay persons sitting on the jury cannot be presumed to have considered this argument "only as a summary of the allegations of the indictment" which did not prejudice petitioner. (App. A, p. 14)

[6] Brief of E. Mandell and Fairchild, pp. 10-11.

[7] See *Kotteakos* v. *United States,* 328 U.S. 750, 765 (1946).

Joint representation of petitioner by the same counsel as his co-defendants, under the circumstances, resulted in a violation of his Sixth Amendment constitutional right to the effective assistance of counsel. Waiver of such right cannot be presumed from a silent record. It is impossible for this Court to conclude beyond a reasonable doubt—as is necessary before constitutional error may be deemed harmless—that petitioner was not prejudiced by the joint representation.

Certiorari should be allowed because of the extreme importance of this issue to the administration of justice, and it should be resolved by this Court, particularly since the Seventh Circuit's position is in conflict with holdings of at least three other Circuits.[8]

2.

Petitioner was deprived of a fair trial and of his Sixth Amendment right to confrontation by the court's improper limitation of cross-examination of the government's two chief and essential witnesses as to their interest, motive and bias. The Seventh Circuit's decision conflicts with decisions from other Circuits and with principles announced by this Court in Davis v. Alaska, 415 U.S. 308.

A defendant has a constitutional right during cross-examination to demonstrate the interest, bias and motive

[8] Joining the Seventh Circuit in expressly rejecting the D.C., First and Third Circuit position are the Second, Fifth and Ninth Circuits. See *United States* v. *Paz-Sierra*, 367 F.2d 930, 932-33 (2 Cir. 1966); *United States* v. *Boudreaux*, 502 F.2d 557, 558 (5 Cir. 1974); *United States* v. *Christopher*, 488 F.2d 849, 851 (9 Cir. 1973). See App. A, pp. 10-11. Thus there is genuine conflict between the D.C., First and Third Circuits on the one hand, and the Second, Fifth, Seventh and Ninth on the other. Certiorari is therefore extremely appropriate.

of a prosecution witness. *Davis* v. *Alaska*, 415 U.S. 308 (1974).[9]

Here, petitioner was prevented from demonstrating that witness Kriv: (a) had an interest in testifying to avoid possible prosecution for bribery of a state court judge (Tr. 276); (b) may have been testifying to avoid a civil suit (via counter-claim) by defendants against him (Tr. 312); and (c) had an interest to avoid disbarment proceedings for violation of professional ethics. (Tr. 369).[10]

Similarly, petitioner was prevented from demonstrating that witness Leon had reason to testify in order to avoid prosecution for theft from his corporation. (Tr. 741-42) [11]

[9] In *Davis* v. *Alaska*, *id.* at 316-17, this Court stated:

> "A more particular attack on the witness' credibility is effected by means of cross examination directed toward revealing possible biases, prejudices, or ulterior motives of the witness as they may relate directly to issues or personalities in the case at hand. The partiality of a witness is subject to exploration at trial, and is 'always relevant as discrediting the witness and affecting the weight of his testimony.' 3A J. Wigmore Evidence §940, p. 775 (Chadbourn rev. 1970). We have recognized that the exposure of a witness' motivation in testifying is a proper and important function of the constitutionally protected right of cross examination.
>
> "Petitioner was thus denied the right of effective cross examination which '"would be constitutional error of the first magnitude and no amount of showing of want of prejudice would cure it." *Brookhart* v. *Janis*, 384 U.S. 1, 3 [16 L. Ed. 2d 314, 86 S. Ct. 1245].' *Smith* v. *Illinois*, 390 U.S. 129, 131, 19 L. Ed. 2d 956, 88 S. Ct. 748 (1968)."

[10] The trial court recognized that Kriv's credibility was a crucial issue. Tr. 444.

[11] Leon's testimony was crucial to Count 3.

While, as noted by the court, (App. A, p. 15), petitioner was permitted some cross-examination in these areas, he was not permitted sufficiently to develop facts from which the jury could conclude that their testimony resulted from their own motives, interest and bias.

The Seventh Circuit has overlooked a most important principle of cross-examination: that is, that what is relevant is not necessarily what the facts actually may have been, but rather, what is paramount is what the witness *believed,* vis â vis how his state of mind might affect his credibility. Defendants have a constitutional right to have the jury made aware of the witness' state of mind as to the factual circumstances in question, so that the jury may properly take this crucial factor—*i.e.,* the witness' state of mind—into consideration in determining his credibility.

Whether or not bribery or attempted bribery of a State court judge was in fact contemplated is quite beside the point; if, when he testified, Kriv *believed* that he (Kriv) had been involved in the possible bribery of a judge, his belief that he had been thus involved might well affect his decision to testify against petitioner because of his hopes and aspirations that so doing might avert possible prosecution therefor. Knowledge of this, in turn, could well affect the jury's assessment of his credibility.

Similarly, whether or not prosecution of Leon for theft from the corporation was factually probable is irrelevant; if Leon *believed* he might be subject to such prosecution, this factor should properly have been considered by the jury in weighing his credibility, since his testimony might have been prompted by his hope to avoid possible prosecution.

In analogous situations, courts have consistently held that even absent any express promises of leniency from the prosecution to the witness, a defendant has a right to inquire of a prosecution witness whether he believes his giving testimony against defendant will benefit him, whether or not any such hope or belief has any foundation in fact, and even if such hope or belief is unreasonable. For example:

> "Whether or not a promise was actually made by the Assistant United States Attorney was irrelevant; the crucial factors were the witness' motive, state of mind and expectation in testifying." *United States* v. *Dickens,* 417 F.2d 958, 960 (8 Cir. 1969).

Because the reviewing court found that the witness' belief, if made known to the jury, "might well have affected the jury's view of . . . [the witness'] credibility," *id.* at 961, the court reversed, holding: "[W]here the Sixth Amendment right of cross-examination has been abridged, prejudice need not be shown . . ." *Ibid.* Other cases clearly holding that the relevant question is the witness' motive and state of mind, regardless of any factual basis for his entertaining any hopes or expectations of leniency, and reversing for improper limitation of questions designed to expose this, include: *Sandroff* v. *United States,* 158 F. 2d 623, 629 (6 Cir. 1946); *Farkas* v. *United States,* 2 F.2d 644, 647 (6 Cir. 1924); *Spaeth* v. *United States,* 232 F.2d 776 (6 Cir. 1965) (defendant entitled to develop witness' *mere hope* of early parole). This rule expressly has been extended to situations involving crimes not actually charged but which the witness *may have* committed. *Whitton* v. *State,* 479 P.2d 302, 316-18 (Alaska 1970). There, "The court would not permit [defense] counsel to inquire as to Daniel's involvement in *other crimes that may have been committed.*" *Id.* at 316. (Emphasis added.) The

Alaska Supreme Court reversed, holding that this limitation of cross-examination of Daniel, a crucial prosecution witness, was prejudicial error, notwithstanding the general rule that a witness' prior misbehavior not resulting in conviction cannot be used to impeach. The court ruled that the prohibition of impeachment by proof of particular wrongful acts did not bar the use of such evidence for the purpose of showing bias:

> "What counsel wanted to show was that Daniel expected immunity from prosecution for *possible crimes he may have committed* in exchange for his willingness to give incriminating testimony against appellant." *Ibid.* (Emphasis added.)

Other cases specifically holding that a prosecution witness must be subject to unrestricted impeachment by demonstration of the witness' hope or belief that his testimony may operate to his benefit vis â vis charges against him (not directly related to the charges for which defendant is on trial), and reversing where defense attempts so to do were improperly limited, include: *Hughes* v. *United States,* 427 F.2d 66 (9 Cir. 1970); *United States* v. *Masino,* 275 F.2d 129, 131-32 (2 Cir. 1960) (reversed for improper restriction of cross-examination *re* the witness' hopes concerning an unrelated state charge); and *United States* v. *Leonard,* 494 F.2d 955, 962-63 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

The rationale requiring reversal in such situations applies equally to the case at bar, even though no actual prosecution was pending against either witness, since each witness may reasonably have *believed* that he was subject to possible prosecution from which his testimony would cause him to be "spared." As is abundantly clear from the foregoing case law, the witness' belief, not the actual facts, determines the possibly impeaching effect of his state of mind upon his testimony.

Moreover, it is for the jury alone to assess the impeachment value of purported impeachment evidence. In the words of this Court:

> "[D]efense counsel should have been permitted to expose to the jury the facts from which jurors, as the sole triers of fact and credibility could appropriately draw inferences relating to the reliability of the witness." *Davis* v. *Alaska,* 415 U.S. 308, 318 (1974).

Accord, United States v. *Borelli,* 336 F.2d 376, 391-92 (2 Cir. 1964); *United States* v. *Partin,* 493 F.2d 750, 759 (6 Cir. 1974) ("Its impact, if any, upon his credibility was for the jury, not for the prosecutors or the Court."); *United States* v. *Fontana,* 231 F.2d 807, 809-12 (3 Cir. 1956.

Even though some questioning along the lines sought by the defense was permitted, petitioner must, at the very least, be afforded a new trial because the jury was not exposed to all the avenues—including the respective states of mind of the most crucial government witnesses concerning their hopes to avoid possible prosecution—which the jury may have found pertinent to the witnesses' credibility and to their full and complete reasons for "cooperating" with the government. Where a crucial witness is concerned, such limitation of full impeachment is reversible error even though some impeachment was permitted. See, *e.g., United States* v. *Gerard,* 491 F.2d 1300, 1304 (9 Cir. 1974); *United States* v. *Baker,* 494 F.2d 1262, 1266-67 (6 Cir. 1974); *United States* v. *Persico,* 305 F.2d 534, 537-40 (2 Cir. 1962); *Wynn* v. *United States,* 397 F.2d 621, 623-24 (D.C. Cir. 1967); *United States* v. *Hibler,* 463 F.2d 461, 462 (9 Cir. 1972).

The Seventh Circuit's ruling on this issue conflicts with all the foregoing decisions from other Circuits.

Under the factual circumstances of the case at bar—wherein the testimony of Kriv and Leon was absolutely crucial to establish the charges against petitioner—the restriction imposed by the trial judge upon petitioner's right fully to cross-examine them in order to expose to the jury their possible motive and bias in testifying for the prosecution because of their respective beliefs (factually well-founded or not) that in so doing they might benefit themselves, constituted an abuse of judicial discretion pursuant to the holdings of each of the above-cited cases.

And, because the improper limitation of cross-examination was condoned by the reviewing court as having been within the trial court's discretion—in conflict with decisions from other Circuits, as noted above—this Court should review the cause on certiorari to give full effect to the Sixth Amendment right to confrontation of accused persons on a consistent nationwide basis.

CONCLUSION

For any or all of the foregoing reasons, the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Petitioner

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

In the

United States Court of Appeals

For the Seventh Circuit

No. 75-1111

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

vs.

FRED MANDELL, ENID MANDELL and ERNEST FAIRCHILD,

Defendants-Appellants.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division

No. 74 CR 394

PRENTICE H. MARSHALL, *Judge*

ARGUED JUNE 11, 1975—DECIDED JULY 30, 1975

Before CLARK, *Associate Justice,** STEVENS, *Circuit Judge,* and GRANT, *Senior District Judge.***

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*Associate Justice Tom C. Clark (Retired) of the Supreme Court of the United States is sitting by designation.

**Senior District Judge Robert A. Grant of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana is sitting by designation.

PER CURIAM. Defendants Fred and Enid Mandell and Ernest Fairchild appeal from their convictions on a three-count indictment charging them with wire and mail fraud and transportation of property obtained by fraud in interstate commerce.[1] All three of the defendants allege that they were denied effective assistance of counsel because they were represented by the same attorney at trial. They also complain of the limitations placed on their cross-examination of the chief government witnesses, Harold Kriv and Ira Leon, and of the fact that the prosecutor was permitted to confer with Kriv continually during his testimony. Finally, Fred Mandell asserts as reversible error the fact that the government elicited testimony concerning Mandell's assertion of his right to remain silent upon his arrest.

As we find that none of these alleged errors requires reversal, we affirm the convictions entered below.

In ruling on the defendants' motions for judgments of acquittal or, in the alternative, a new trial, the district court reviewed and summarized the evidence presented to the jury. We adopt his summary as our statement of facts:

> There was overwhelming credible testimony which showed that Fred Mandell, an attorney, importuned first his office associate, Harold Kriv, and then a gambling acquaintance, Ira Leon, to invest in personal injury judgments which Mandell represented he had

[1] All three were found guilty by the jury of the mail fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1341) and wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343) counts. Fred and Enid Mandell were found guilty on the interstate transportation count (18 U.S.C. § 2314). Fred Mandell was sentenced to a five-year term on each of the three counts, to run concurrently. Enid Mandell received a two-year concurrent sentence on each count, with provision for parole under 18 U.S.C. § 4208(a)(2). Ernest Fairchild was sentenced to a term of one year and one day on each of his two convictions, to run concurrently.

> obtained against the City of Chicago in behalf of certain of his clients. Evidently Mandell had actually obtained two nominal judgments of $1,000 against the City. He took certified copies of those judgments, altered them by dismantling the certification and substituting spurious pages showing that each judgment was in the amount of $120,000. These he flashed to Kriv, a distressingly eager victim, and regrettably, also a member of the bar, telling Kriv that he could enjoy half of the judgments for an investment of $75,000 in cash. Kriv's $75,000 was to have added to it $15,000 from Mandell, which was to be distributed $40,000 each to the two clients who had been persuaded by Mandell to sell their "judgments" for $40,000, and $10,000 to a state court judge who was to preside over the bilking of Mandell's clients.
>
> According to Mandell, the $240,000 in judgments would be "discounted" with a judgment broker in Waukegan, Illinois who would pay within a matter of days $211,000. This would be divided between Mandell and Kriv 50-50 after the repayment to Kriv of his $75,000 investment and another $12,500 which he had invested with Mandell in regard to certain personal injury cases in which Mandell had contingent fee contracts.
>
> Kriv came up with his $75,000 with amazing alacrity. One of the ingredients of the scheme was the need for speed, cash and no writing. Kriv went from bank to bank cleaning out his accounts and one belonging to his wife and gave Mandell the $75,000 in $100 bills and that was the last he ever saw of it.
>
> The scheme was hopeless. There were no judgments that could be turned into $211,000 and Mandell needed some explanation for the whereabouts of Kriv's money when Mandell couldn't produce. Either fortuitously or as a part of the scheme, an explanation presented itself when Kriv was shot in his office of a Saturday afternoon by a black man who came to the

office posing as a prospective client. Kriv was hospitalized and underwent major surgery. His wife was then involved by Mandell, Mandell's wife, Enid, and Ernest Fairchild who told Mrs. Kriv that her husband had been shot by irate blacks whom he had been cheating; that a black gang was out to get Kriv, Mrs. Kriv, their children, the Mandells and their children unless the $75,000 could be used to pay them off. She gave her consent ignorant of the transaction in which her husband had engaged with Mandell. Thereafter Kriv and his wife were pressured into contributing yet another $58,000 to the non-existent black gang, a portion of which was raised by a telephone call to Kriv's father in Iowa, and his mailing of a $15,000 check to Kriv in Chicago, hence the wire and mail involvements in the scheme, and that money was never seen again, after it was delivered to the two Mandells and Fairchild for payment to the black gang.

The Mandells represented to the Krivs that Enid had contributed $23,000 to the final payoff. This was another fiction. Following a disagreement some months later, Enid demanded repayment of her money threatening Kriv to send the same "guy" to do it again, only this time "he'll complete the job."

Leon was the second victim. The scheme was the same although some of the techniques were a bit different. He was importuned to invest $65,000 in a similar quick discount of judgments against the City. Mandell used the same names of clients, same judgment amounts, only this time he involved an unknown person who played the role of a lawyer for the City who flashed at Leon phony checks in large amounts which were to be Leon's and Mandell's for ready cashing in a few days. So generous was the man from the City that he offered a second check with a face value of $300,000 to Mandell and Leon if they could come up with an additional $75,000. Mandell "contributed" $17,000 and Leon parted with another $58,000. Leon has yet to see any of the total $123,000 he invested.

When Leon became insistent, he was told by Mandell that Mandell had become involved in an argument with the City lawyer, had killed him, that the lawyer's body was in the trunk of a car driven by Fairchild, that Fairchild wanted $50,000 to dispose of the body in Colorado, and Mandell needed $50,000 to escape the country. At that point Leon suspected something was amiss. But he went through the motions of raising the money, timing it in such a way that the checks he obtained could not be converted to cash until the next business day (which was a Monday) and over the intervening weekend he contacted his lawyers who in turn contacted the Government who in turn arranged for the apprehension of Mandell, in whose possession was found the spurious checks and other incriminating documents.

Enid Mandell's role in the Leon fleecing was that of a courier and passer of messages between Leon and her husband. Fairchild participated directly in the portion of the scheme that involved a dead body in Fairchild's trunk, etc.

Clearly, as the indictment alleged, Mandell devised a scheme to defraud Leon and Kriv and Enid Mandell and Ernest Fairchild embraced it and aided and abetted in its perpetration. The scheme was successful. The mails and interstate wire were used and some of the proceeds were transported in interstate commerce, all as alleged in the indictment.

I.

All three defendants contend that they were prejudiced by their joint representation by a single retained trial counsel, Julius Sherwin.[2] As we have recently noted, the

[2]Actually, another attorney, Benjamin Daidone, entered an appearance on behalf of the Mandells and was present at counsel table throughout the trial. He did not, however, participate on the record although he may have been active in advising Sherwin. We will assume, however, for purposes of discussion, that only Sherwin represented these defendants.

Sixth Amendment guarantee of Assistance of Counsel[3] requires representation by counsel whose loyalties lie exclusively with his client. *United States* v. *Jeffers*, Nos. 74-1650, 74-1680 (7th Cir., July 30, 1975).

The potential conflict of interests that exists when multiple criminal defendants are represented by the same counsel has long been recognized by the courts. In *Glasser* v. *United States*, 315 U.S. 60, 70, where, over his objection, a defendant was represented by the counsel of his co-defendant, the Supreme Court explained:

> [We are] clear that the "assistance of counsel" guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment contemplates that such assistance be untrammeled and unimpaired by a court order requiring that one lawyer shall simultaneously represent conflicting interests. If the right to the assistance of counsel means less than this, a valued constitutional safeguard is substantially impaired.

The danger of a conflict is so severe in such a situation that the American Bar Association has recommended that such dual representation be undertaken only in the extraordinary case:

> The potential for conflict of interest in representing multiple defendants is so grave that ordinarily a lawyer should decline to act for more than one of several co-defendants except in unusual situations when, after careful investigation, it is clear that no conflict is likely to develop and when the several defendants give an informed consent to such multiple representation.

---

[3] "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence."

A.B.A. Standards: The Defense Function § 3.5(b)(1971).[4]

Defendants urge us, in view of these considerations, to follow the lead of the District of Columbia Circuit, which has placed the burden on the trial judge to determine at the outset of the criminal trial where multiple-defendant representation exists whether defendants are aware of the dangers present and whether they knowingly and intelligently waived single representation. *See Lollar* v. *United States*, 376 F.2d 243, 245-246 (D.C. Cir. 1967); *Campbell* v. *United States*, 352 F.2d 359, 360-361 (D.C. Cir. 1965).[5] As the court explained in *Campbell:*

---

[4] The Commentary to § 3.5(b) explains that the following dangers arise from multiple-client representation:

> "In many instances a given course of action may be advantageous to one of the defendants but not necessarily to the other. The prosecutor may be inclined to accept a guilty plea from one of the co-defendants, either to a lesser offense or with a lesser penalty or other considerations; but this might harm the interests of the other defendant. The contrast in the dispositions of their cases may have a harmful impact on the remaining defendant; the one who pleads guilty might even, as part of the plea agreement, consent to testify against the co-defendant. Moreover, the very fact of multiple representation makes it impossible to assure the accused that his statements to the lawyer are given in full confidence. Defense counsel necessarily must confront each with any conflicting statements made by the other in the course of planning the defense of the cases. In this situation he may find that he must "judge" his clients to determine which is telling the truth, and his role as advocate would inevitably be undermined as to one if not both defendants."

A.B.A. Standards: The Defense Function § 3.5(b) at 213-214 (1971).

[5] It is not clear in these cases whether the court felt this duty of inquiry was compelled by the Sixth Amendment or whether it was merely a product of the court's supervisory powers.

> An individual defendant is rarely sophisticated enough to evaluate the potential conflicts, and when two defendants appear with a single attorney it cannot be determined, absent inquiry by the trial judge, whether the attorney has made such an appraisal or has advised his clients of the risks. Considerations of efficient judicial administration as well as important rights of defendants are served when the trial judge makes the affirmative determination that co-defendants have intelligently chosen to be represented by the same attorney and that their decision was not governed by poverty and lack of information on the availability of assigned counsel.

352 F.2d at 360. In the D.C. Circuit, where the record does not affirmatively indicate that the defendants were so warned and that they waived any possible conflict, the burden shifts to the government to demonstrate beyond a reasonable doubt that a prejudicial conflict of interests did not exist.[6]

Both the Third and the First Circuits have also indicated the desirability of the trial judge affirmatively in-

[6] In *Lollar* the court more fully explained the effects of a failure of the trial court to make such an affirmative determination:

> "We hold, therefore, that only where ' "we can find no basis in the record for an informed speculation" that appellant's rights were prejudicially affected,' can the conviction stand. [Citations omitted.] In effect, we adopt the standard of 'reasonable doubt,' a standard the Supreme Court recently said must govern whenever the prosecution contends the denial of a constitutional right is merely harmless error. Chapman v. California, 386 U.S. 18, 87 S.Ct. 824, 18 L.Ed. 2d 241 (1967)." 376 F.2d at 247.

Thus, the D.C. Circuit rule is not a *per se* rule requiring reversal when the trial judge fails to carry out his function, as stated in *United States* v. *Foster*, 469 F.2d 1, 5 (1st Cir. 1972), and *United States ex rel. Hart* v. *Davenport*, 478 F.2d 203, 211 (3rd Cir. 1973), but it does place a heavy burden on the government to demonstrate that any potential conflict of interests was harmless to the appellant "beyond a reasonable doubt."

quiring of multiple defendants represented by a single defense counsel to determine whether they are cognizant of the risks of conflict of interests and whether, in the light of those risks, they still wish to maintain their common representation. *See United States ex rel. Hart* v. *Davenport*, 478 F.2d 203, 211 (3rd Cir. 1973); *United States* v. *Foster*, 469 F.2d 1, 5 (1st Cir. 1972).[7]

[7] In *Foster*, the First Circuit indicated that, in requiring such an affirmative inquiry, it was acting under its supervisory powers. 469 F.2d at 4. It then explained the operation of the rule:

> "If the court has carried out this duty of inquiry, then to the extent a defendant later attempts to attack his conviction on grounds of conflict of interest arising from joint representation he will bear a heavy burden indeed of persuading us that he was, for that reason, deprived of a fair trial.
>
> "When a satisfactory inquiry does not appear on the record, the burden of persuasion will shift to the government. If the case comes before us on direct appeal, the government will be required to demonstrate from the record that prejudice to the defendant was improbable. If the issue arises in the context of a § 2255 motion, the government will bear the burden of establishing the unlikelihood of prejudice by a preponderance of the evidence." *Id.* at 5.

Thus, the First Circuit rule, like that of the D.C. Circuit, operates to shift the burden of persuasion to the government in the absence of warnings and express waiver.

The Third Circuit, although it stated that a rule requiring affirmative judicial inquiry might be desirable, refused to adopt one in *Davenport*, 478 F.2d at 211. Instead, it found the conviction infirm in that case on the basis of prior Third Circuit case law:

> "[W]e have held that upon a showing of a possible conflict of interest or prejudice, however remote, we will regard joint representation as constitutionally defective. Walker v. United States, 422 F.2d 374 (3d Cir.), cert. denied, 399 U.S. 915, 90 S.Ct. 2219, 26 L.Ed.2d 573 (1970)." *Id.* at 210.

Other circuits have not adopted such a requirement, however: *see United States* v. *Boudreaux,* 502 F.2d 557, 558 (5th Cir. 1974);[8] *United States* v. *Christopher,* 488 F.2d 849, 851 (9th Cir. 1973); *United States* v. *Paz-Sierra,* 367 F.2d 930, 932-933 (2d Cir. 1966), *cert. denied,* 386 U.S. 935; *cf. Fryar* v. *United States,* 404 F.2d 1071, 1073 (10th Cir. 1968), *cert. denied,* 395 U.S. 964. They would not require the trial judge to act affirmatively to ascertain whether a conflict existed unless, in the words of *Boudreaux,* there was "objection, claim [or] notice to the court of any alleged conflict between the interests of the defendants." 502 F.2d at 558. The harshest criticism of any rule involving the trial judge in such an inquiry has come from the Second Circuit. In *Paz-Sierra,* 367 F.2d at 932-933, Judge Moore explained:

> The ramifications of the situation in which the court in advance of trial arrogates to itself the function of determining whether the "co-defendants have intelligently chosen to be represented by the same attorney" are so great as to cause this Court to doubt the wisdom of adopting the proposition that an affirmative determination be made by the trial court that the defendant has "intelligently chosen to be represented by the same attorney." No facts have thus far been presented that the Bar of this country is so unmindful of the canons of ethics and its obligation to avoid positions of conflict as to call for a pre-trial cross-examination of defendants and their counsel on the theory, or even presumptuous presumption, that counsel will not be faithful to the best interests of their clients and when

[8] *Boudreaux* states that the D.C. Circuit rule has been held to be unnecessary by "the majority of the Circuits." 502 F.2d at 558. Actually, however, only *Christopher, Paz-Sierra* and *Fryar,* cited in the text, discuss such a requirement. Thus, in the other cases cited by the Fifth Circuit the rejection of such a rule can, at most, have been *sub silentio.*

> aware of any conflict of interest between clients jointly represented whether before or during trial will not disclose it to the court and seek appropriate relief. Furthermore, should it appear that a defendant was in fact prejudiced by the sharing of counsel, he would be even more prejudiced in raising this point on appeal by the trial court's a priori finding that there was no prejudice likely to occur in proceeding with shared counsel. An appellate court could almost take judicial notice of the fact that in a joint representation situation, if one defendant were convicted and the other acquitted, appellate counsel would argue prejudice as to the convicted defendant. Hindsight being what it is, a wiser approach might well be to leave to the members of the Bar the avoidance of cases of apparent prejudice by their refusal to represent clients with conflicting interests.

We agree with Judge Moore that the primary responsibility for the ascertainment and avoidance of conflict situations must lie with the members of the bar.[9] This is especially true in the common representation situation, for all courts have recognized that common representation, without a showing of conflicting interests, is not in itself a violation of the Sixth Amendment, and that there may be excellent reasons for preferring the use of a single attorney in a particular case. We think the Sixth Amendment rights of defendants are adequately safeguarded by

[9] A.B.A. Canon of Professional Ethics 6 requires an attorney to bring a possible conflict of interest to his client's attention at the earliest possible time. *See also Holland* v. *Henderson,* 460 F.2d 978, 981 (5th Cir. 1972). There is no evidence in the record and no representation by defendants in their briefs to this court that Sherwin did not comply with this requirement. The noteworthy absence of such an allegation in this case strengthens our conclusion that no purpose would be served in remanding this case to the district court for a hearing on the existence of a conflict of interest.

imposing the duty of informing defendants of the potential dangers of multiple-client representation initially on the attorneys, as officers of the court, and by admonishing the trial judges to be watchful for indicia of conflict during the trial. Thus, we do not feel the D.C. Circuit's affirmative inquiry requirement is mandated by the Sixth Amendment, *Glasser*, or any other Supreme Court pronouncement. And, at this time, we join the Third Circuit in declining to adopt such a rule based on our inherent supervisory authority.[10]

Having concluded that the district court did not err in failing to determine that the defendants were aware of the risks in having Sherwin represent all of them, we believe that it is incumbent upon the defendants to demonstrate, with a reasonable degree of specificity, that a conflict of interests actually existed at trial.[11]

Defendants Enid Mandell and Ernest Fairchild contend that a conflict existed because of the differing degrees of culpability that existed among the defendants and because Sherwin spent most of his time and efforts in an attempt to defend Fred Mandell. They make no allegations that there was any inconsistency in the defenses the three defendants did or could have put forth. Instead, they merely assert that they were forgotten by Sherwin in his attempt to acquit Fred Mandell.

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[10] This is not to suggest that the adoption of such a practice by the district court judges within this circuit would not be desirable.

[11] Thus, we do not shift the burden of persuasion to the government in such a circumstance. And, we do not adopt as low a standard of proof as that articulated by the Third Circuit in its decisions. *See* n. 7, *supra*. Thus, we require a defendant who has retained counsel in conjunction with codefendants to demonstrate something more than "a possible conflict of interest . . . however remote."

The record does not support these contentions. Both Enid Mandell and Fairchild testified on their own behalf, were vigorously examined by Sherwin, and denied all of the allegations contained in the indictment. In his closing argument, Sherwin spent considerable time reviewing and highlighting their testimony.

Moreover, defense strategy in this case was a common one that applied consistently to all three defendants—that there was no scheme to defraud, that Harold Kriv fabricated his story after reading about the arrest of Fred Mandell in the newspapers, and that Ira Leon was covering up his embezzlement of company funds. Any added emphasis that Sherwin gave to Fred Mandell's participation in the scheme of necessity redounded to the benefit of the other defendants as well.

Thus, the record in this case does not disclose the complete ignoring of a less culpable defendant, in favor of his more deeply inculpated codefendant, by common counsel that existed in the cases of *United States* v. *Marshall*, 488 F.2d 1169, 1190-94 (9th Cir. 1973), and *Campbell* v. *United States*, 352 F.2d 359, 361 (D.C. Cir. 1965), where convictions were reversed on Sixth Amendment grounds. If we were to find a Sixth Amendment violation on the basis of these defendants' argument, we would, in effect, have to find such a violation in any case where two defendants of unequal culpability are represented by the same counsel. The Sixth Amendment guarantee of Assistance of Counsel commands no such rule.[12]

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[12] In addition, at oral argument counsel for Enid Mandell and Fairchild requested that we "speculate" that any or all of the parade of horribles described in the Commentary to A.B.A. Standard: The Defense Function § 3.5(b), *supra* n. 4, may well have occurred with respect to these defendants. This we decline to do. There must be a showing of a conflict of interests based on the record and not on mere speculation. No such showing has been made in this case.

Fred Mandell also complains of the conflict of interests, based on a statement made by Sherwin during closing argument.[13] We have read the statement in the context of Sherwin's argument and do not find it to constitute an admission against Fred Mandell. All that counsel was doing at that point was summarizing the allegations of the indictment. His reference to the fact that the rest of the indictment referred only to Fred Mandell was merely a continued summary and in no way prejudiced his client.[14]

Consequently, we reject defendants' conflict of interests arguments.

II.

Defendants next complain of rulings of the trial judge which, they claim, limited their ability adequately to cross-examine government witnesses, Kriv, Leon, and Kruse to expose their possible interests, bias, and motives in testifying against the defendants.

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[13] "In any event, that these people—now, here is what they are talking about—devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and obtain money by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, knowing them to be false—the scheme was in substance that. And from this point on every reference to the indictment is Fred Mandell—and I don't want Fred Mandell to think I'm deserting him and selling him down the river, because when I get through talking to you, there are going to be many reasonable doubts that I will point out to you as to why regardless of what else happened, they have not proven a case, not even by a preponderance of evidence, supporting the legal opinion given by Mr. Kruse at least as to Kriv when he heard his story."

[14] In addition, all three defendants contend that a conflict of interests existed when Sherwin cross-examined Julia Maratto, defendant Fred Mandell's ex-secretary, after having represented her on a previous occasion. Applying the analysis contained in our recent decision in *United States* v. *Jeffers,* Nos. 74-1650, 74-1680 (7th Cir., July 30, 1975), we find no such conflict.

With respect to Kriv, they contend that they were not permitted to develop fully the facts surrounding his participation in a conspiracy to bribe a state court judge, the reasons behind his dismissal of a civil suit against defendants Fred and Enid Mandell, and his violations of professional ethics. We have read the record references cited to us by defendants and are not persuaded that they in fact were not given an ample opportunity to explore each of these three areas. To the extent that the trial judge did place limits on the inquiry, we find that he acted well within his discretion to limit the scope and extent of cross-examination. *See United States* v. *Isaacs,* 493 F.2d 1124, 1162 (7th Cir. 1974), *cert. denied,* 417 U.S. 976.

Similarly, we find no improper limitation on the scope of defendants' cross-examination of Leon with respect to a possible embezzlement of funds from his corporation. The only sustained government objection that was cited by defendants was to the improper defense question, "That was an illegal transaction, wasn't it?"

And we agree with the ruling of the trial judge that the amount of money Kriv paid Attorney Kruse in connection with a contemplated action against the Mandells for fraud was simply irrelevant. Clearly, however, even if error, the ruling was harmless.

III.

During his direct examination of the government's first witness, Kriv, the prosecutor privately spoke to the witness while he was on the witness stand. He explained that such conversations were necessary because "Mr. Sherwin has raised some points in his opening that came as a complete surprise to me." Tr. 79. The trial judge held that such discussions were permissible but admonished the prosecutor, "I don't think that he [Kriv] should discuss the testimony that he has already given." Tr. 78-79. Un-

der the circumstances, we think it was within the discretion of the trial judge to permit such conference to take place, subject to the admonition, and we find no error, especially since the defendants did not object to such discussions at trial.

IV.

Finally, defendant Fred Mandell argues that his right to a fair trial was severely prejudiced when the government presented evidence that he, when arrested, invoked his constitutional privilege to remain silent.

This court has consistently criticized prosecutorial conduct designed to elicit the fact that a defendant has so relied on his Fifth Amendment rights. *See United States* v. *Bridges,* 499 F.2d 179, 182-183 (7th Cir. 1974), *cert. denied,* ..... U.S. .....; *United States* v. *Matos,* 444 F.2d 1071, 1072-1073 (7th Cir. 1971); *United States* v. *Kroslack,* 426 F.2d 1129, 1130-1131 (7th Cir. 1970); *see also Baker* v. *United States,* 357 F.2d 11 (5th Cir. 1966).

Agent Kogut, who arrested the defendant, testified as to the circumstances surrounding the arrest. He stated that the *Miranda* warnings were given to Mandell; then the agent was asked:

> Q. And what, if anything, did he say?
> A. Well, at this point Mr. Mandell told me that he was a practicing attorney, and he was very much aware of his rights; that he understood everything I was speaking to him about when it came to the rights that I explained.
>
> * * * He told us once again he understood his rights, but he would rather not sign the form, and he would rather not discuss the case at this point.

Tr. 866.[15] No objection was made to this question; no

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[15] The complete relevant testimony was:

"Q. Now, after completing the search, what, if anything, did you say?

"A. After completing the detailed search of Mr. Mandell's person, and verifying his identity thought [sic] the various pieces of identification papers that he had with him, I then advised him that he had certain rights under the constitution; namely that he was under no obligation whatsoever to speak to us about the case in question; that if he did decide to say anything to us, that what he did say would be taken down and used against him in court; that he had the right to the advise [sic] of an attorney; that if it turned out that he was not able to afford an attorney, the court would appoint one for him; that if he did decide to answer any questions that we were to ask him, he had the right to stop at any point during the questioning at which point we would discontinue.

"Q. And what, if anything, did he say?

"A. Well, at this point, Mr. Mandell told me that he was a practicing attorney and he was very much aware of his rights; that he understood everything I was speaking to him about when it came to the rights that I had explained.

"Notwithstanding that, I asked that he take the time to read a form which I handed to him, which is a form setting out the rights that I had explained to him. He did take the form and he did read it. He told us that once again he understood his rights, but he would rather not sign the form, and would rather not discuss the case at this point.

"Q. And did you say anything to him?

"A. Yes, I told him I would respect his decision not to talk about the case. Both Special Agent Munis and I witnessed the form. I then told him that I was somewhat curious about a few things.

"One of the first things I asked was whether or not—in view of the fact that he was a practicing attorney, and quite knowledgeable of the law and his rights, why he had been prompted to say what he had said to us earlier; that is, that we need not search him any further, what we wanted was in the envelope, at which point he replied to me that he knew that the only thing that could hurt him was actually in the envelope, and that was the reason he said it." Tr. 866-867.

motion to strike was made with respect to the answer; no request for a mistrial was tendered by defendant. At the conclusion of the witness' testimony and outside the presence of the jury, the trial judge brought the matter of the aforementioned response to the attention of counsel *sua sponte,* and suggested that an instruction should be given the jury to disregard the answer. The prosecutor stated that the reply had come as a surprise to him. When the jury returned, the court stated:

> The Court: Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to perform a little legal surgery, and I want you to pay close attention to what I am about to say to you.
>
> During the course of Agnt Kogut's testimony, when he was testifying with respect to the arrest, he stated that Mr. Mandell said to him that he did not want to discuss the matter.
>
> If an objection had been made at that time, I would have sustained it, and I would have ordered that answer stricken. And I am now ordering it stricken, and I am instructing you to disregard it.
>
> Every person, when arrested, has the right to decline to discuss the charge that has been made against him. That is a right that all of us enjoy, you and me and everyone else, and you should disregard to the greatest extent that you are humanly capable any reference to the fact that at the time of his arrest, Mr. Mandell elected not to discuss the matter with the agent.

Tr. 905. The answer was not discussed by the government during its closing argument. Defendant's post-trial motion failed to list this question and answer as error.

Under the circumstances of this case, although we do not condone the lack of foresight shown by the prosecutor in asking the question, we do not think Mandell's right to

a fair trial was prejudiced by the agent's answer. This is a far less egregious case than *Bridges,* where questions eliciting the impermissible response were asked on three separate occasions; *Matos,* where the improper question was asked after the prosecutor was informed during a voir dire that he was entering "troubled waters" and where the trial judge refused to give a cautionary instruction; or *Kroslack,* where the desire of the defendant to remain silent was elicited on two occasions, once after the prosecutor was specifically informed by defense counsel that he was "sailing into troubled waters again," and no cautionary instruction was given the jury. This is not a case involving deliberate prosecutorial misconduct. As the trial judge stated, "[M]y recollection is it was a perfectly innocuous question on its face." Tr. 902. We agree. At most the question and its response were harmless error.

Accordingly, the judgments entered by the district court, in all particulars, are

AFFIRMED.

A true Copy:
Teste:

.....
Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

APPENDIX B

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT
Chicago, Illinois 60604

August 25, 1975

Before
Hon. TOM C. CLARK, *Associate Justice*
Hon. JOHN PAUL STEVENS, *Circuit Judge*
Hon. ROBERT A. GRANT, SR., *District Judge*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

No. 75-1111 *vs.*

FRED MANDELL, ENID MANDELL and
ERNEST FAIRCHILD,
Defendants-Appellants.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division.

(74 Cr 394)

On consideration of the petition for rehearing and suggestion that it be reheard *en banc* filed in the above-entitled cause, no judge in active service having requested a vote thereon, nor any judge having voted to grant the suggestion, and all of members of the panel having voted to deny a rehearing,

IT IS ORDERED that the petition for a rehearing in the above-entitled cause be, and the same is hereby, DENIED.

Supreme Court, U. S.
FILED
DEC 10 1975
MICHAEL RODAK, JR., CLERK

Nos. 75-440 and 75-441

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1975

FRED MANDELL, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ENID MANDELL AND ERNEST FAIRCHILD, PETITIONERS

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITIONS FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

ROBERT H. BORK,
Solicitor General,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C. 25030.

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In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1975

No. 75-440

FRED MANDELL, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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ENID MANDELL AND ERNEST FAIRCHILD, PETITIONERS

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITIONS FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

OPINION BELOW

The opinion of the court of appeals (Fred Mandell Pet. App. A) has not yet been reported.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the court of appeals was entered on July 30, 1975. The joint petition seeking rehearing and rehearing *en banc* was denied on August 25, 1975 (Fred Mandell Pet. App. B). The petitions for a writ of certiorari were filed on September 20, 1975. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. 1254(1).

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether petitioners were denied the effective assistance of counsel because of their joint representation by the same retained attorney.

2. Whether the trial court improperly limited petitioners' right to cross-examine two of the witnesses called by the government.

STATEMENT

Following a jury trial in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, petitioners were each convicted of mail and wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1341 and 1343. In addition, petitioners Fred and Enid Mandell were convicted of interstate transportation of property obtained by fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 2314. Petitioner Fred Mandell was sentenced to concurrent terms of five years' imprisonment. Petitioner Enid Mandell was sentenced to concurrent terms of two years' imprisonment, with provision for parole under 18 U.S.C. 4208(a)(2). Petitioner Fairchild was sentenced to concurrent terms of imprisonment for a year and a day. The court of appeals affirmed *per curiam* (Fred Mandell Pet. App.).

The evidence at trial showed that in June 1973 petitioner Fred Mandell, an attorney, convinced his associate, Harold Kriv, also an attorney, to purchase for $75,000 a one-half interest in two personal injury judgments against the City of Chicago. Mandell represented to Kriv that the judgments could be purchased at less than their face value from his clients and then resold for a substantial profit.[1] The judgments, which were actually for $1,000 each, had been altered to appear as if they were each for $120,000 (Tr. 63-66, 74-75, 110-114, 1106-1112). Later, petitioner Enid Mandell showed Kriv a check for $211,000, which she represented to be the proceeds from resale of the judgments (Tr. 114-120).

Thereafter, an unidentified individual shot Kriv (Tr. 124-125). While Kriv was hospitalized, Fred Mandell and petitioner Fairchild met with Kriv's wife. Mandell told Mrs. Kriv that the man who had shot her husband had been sent by a gang whose members allegedly had been cheated out of a large sum of money by Kriv and that the members of the gang had threatened to beat her husband once he left the hospital unless they were paid off (Tr. 417-418). At another meeting, which Enid Mandell arranged,

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[1] Mandell claimed that his clients wished to sell their judgments for less than face value because they were unwilling to wait the necessary 2½ years for payment by the City (Tr. 63-64).

Fred Mandell warned Mrs. Kriv that if her husband died, the gang would still demand payment and, if not paid, that they would kill her and her children (Tr. 425). Mrs. Kriv finally agreed to permit the $75,000 that her husband originally paid for the judgments, and which he was now entitled to receive as part of the proceeds of their alleged sale, to be turned over to the gang (Tr. 427).

Harold Kriv was subsequently pressured into giving an additional $27,000 to Fred Mandell after Fairchild claimed that he had investigated Kriv's shooting and had discovered that Kriv and certain other attorneys were the targets of a gang whose members believed they had been cheated by the attorneys who had represented them in personal injury cases. Enid Mandell also claimed that her family had been threatened by members of the gang because of Kriv. Kriv, who was in Chicago, raised a portion of the $27,000 by telephoning his father in Iowa—at Fred Mandell's suggestion—and his father mailed him a $15,000 check (Tr. 143-144, 153-154, 169-173).

In October 1973, Fred Mandell convinced Ira Leon to invest $65,000 for an interest in a $200,000 personal injury judgment against the City of Chicago.[2] This judgment—like the ones shown to Kriv—was an altered $1,000 judgment against the City (Tr. 546-553, 1106-1112). Subsequently, petitioners con-

[2] Enid Mandell arranged various meetings and passed information between Leon and Fred Mandell (Tr. 545, 563, 586).

vinced Leon to contribute an additional $58,000 for an interest in a fraudulent $300,000 judgment against the City of Chicago (Tr. 567-570, 580-581, 836-837). Fred Mandell and Fairchild also attempted to obtain additional money from Leon by representing that Mandell had killed a city attorney in an argument concerning one of the judgments and that for $50,000 Fairchild would dispose of the body. Mandell also claimed that he and Fairchild would need "getaway" money (Tr. 591-593).

ARGUMENT

1. Petitioners contend that they were denied the effective assistance of counsel because they were represented by the same attorney, Julius Sherwin.[3] But petitioners, one of whom is himself an attorney, freely chose to retain the same attorney. This is not therefore a case in which the joint representation complained of resulted from a court's appointing the same attorney to represent more than one defendant at trial. In any event, moreover, the court of appeals correctly rejected petitioners' claim since the record shows conclusively that they were not prejudiced by the joint representation and that they were, in all other respects, effectively represented.

a. Petitioners Enid Mandell and Fairchild specifically argue (Enid Mandell and Fairchild Pet. 18)

[3] Another attorney, Benjamin Daidone, entered an appearance for the Mandells and was present at counsel table throughout the trial.

that they were prejudiced because defense counsel concentrated his efforts on behalf of petitioner Fred Mandell, who was more deeply implicated in the fraud. But as the court below noted (Fred Mandell Pet. App. 12-13), the record does not support this assertion.

The trial strategy adopted by petitioners was a common one, applying consistently to all three petitioners. Essentially, petitioners attempted to convince the jury that no scheme to defraud such as that charged in the indictment had ever existed, that Harold Kriv had fabricated his story after having read about the arrest of Fred Mandell in the newspaper and that Ira Leon's story simply represented an effort on his part to cover his embezzlement of company funds. In an effort to buttress this common defense, defense counsel called Enid Mandell and Fairchild to testify, and under his thorough questioning, they denied all of the charges against them (Tr. 1186-1218, 1303-1339). In addition, during his closing argument, defense counsel reviewed and highlighted their testimony (Tr. 1521, 1535-1536, 1539, 1543, 1545, 1548-1550).

Petitioners Enid Mandell and Fairchild also speculate that they were prejudiced because their counsel's representation of Fred Mandell denied them the opportunity to negotiate a plea agreement (Enid Mandell and Fairchild Pet. 18-19); however, they fail to specify how the joint representation might have frustrated such negotiations. Petitioners further speculate that the husband-wife relationship between Fred

and Enid Mandell and the employer-employee relationship between Fred Mandell and Fairchild increased the likelihood of prejudice (*ibid.*). But the record fails to show how such relationships hindered the presentation of their defense or might have undercut its believability. As the court below stated (Fred Mandell Pet. App. 13 n. 12), in order to demonstrate a Sixth Amendment violation because of joint representation, "[t]here must be a showing of a conflict-of interests based on the record and not on mere speculation. No such showing has been made in this case."

b. Petitioner Fred Mandell also contends (Fred Mandell Pet. 9) that he was prejudiced by the joint representation because during closing argument defense counsel allegedly highlighted his greater involvement in the scheme.[4] But, as the court below

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[4] The relevant portion of defense counsel's argument was as follows (Tr. 1513):

> In any event, that these people—now, here is what they are talking about—devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and obtain money by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, knowing them to be false—the scheme was in substance that. And from this point on every reference to the indictment is Fred Mandell—and I don't want Fred Mandell to think I'm deserting him and selling him down the river, because when I get through talking to you, there are going to be many reasonable doubts that I will point out to you as to why regardless of what else happened, they have not proven a case, not even by a preponderance of evidence, supporting the legal opinion given by Mr. Kruse at least as to Kriv when he heard his story.

stated (Fred Mandell Pet. App. 14), the statement complained of by Fred Mandell constituted no more than a summary of the allegations contained in the indictment and could in no way have prejudiced him.[5]

c. It is true, as asserted by petitioners and as recognized by the court below (Fred Mandell Pet. App. 7-10), that the courts of appeals have adopted in the exercise of their supervisory powers varying approaches to the problem of dealing with possible conflicts of interest arising from an attorney's representation of more than one defendant. Compare, *e.g.*, *Lollar* v. *United States*, 376 F. 2d 243, 245-247 (C.A.D.C.), with *United States* v. *Paz-Sierra*, 367 F. 2d 930, 932-933 (C.A. 2), certiorari denied, 386 U.S. 935. But, at bottom, all of the approaches taken by the courts of appeals are directed toward ensuring that a conviction does not stand where there was a prejudicial conflict of interest arising from joint representation. Review by this Court is not required where a single aim—assuring that defendants are not prejudiced by joint representation—is sought to

[5] Fred Mandell also asserts (Fred Mandell Pet. 9) that he was prejudiced by the joint representation because of the government's impeachment of Fairchild. But the "impeachment" referred to by Fred Mandel related only indirectly to the charges in the indictment, and involved merely a contradiction concerning whether Fairchild or others had attempted to determine who had shot Kriv (Tr. 1226-1228) and whether Fairchild had retained Fred Mandell on one occasion (Tr. 1240-1241). Moreover, if Fred Mandell was affected by the testimony to which he has referred, that effect was attributable to his joinder at trial with Fairchild and not to the joint representation.

be achieved by diverse applications of the lower courts' supervisory powers. Indeed, review by this Court is particularly inappropriate in this case since, under any approach, the record conclusively shows that there was no conflict of interest.

2. Petitioners next contend (Fred Mandell Pet. 10-16, Enid Mandell and Fairchild Pet. 21) that the trial court improperly sustained government objections to questions relating to the credibility of witnesses Kriv and Leon, and that they consequently were denied their right to cross-examination. The record shows, however, that petitioners were given ample opportunity to explore all areas they believed relevant to the credibility of the government's witnesses. As the court of appeals noted (Fred Mandell Pet. App. 15), "[t]o the extent that the trial judge did place limits on the inquiry, * * * he acted well within his discretion to limit the scope and extent of cross-examination. *See United States* v. *Isaacs*, 493 F. 2d 1124, 1162 (7th Cir. 1974), *cert. denied*, 417 U.S. 976."

a. The majority of petitioners' contentions concerning the court's rulings during their examination relate to the testimony of Harold Kriv. Kriv testified at trial that he and Fred Mandell had discussed the possible bribing of a state judge to facilitate their scheme to purchase judgments from Mandell's clients, but Kriv denied that he had actually bribed anyone (Tr. 257-263). After a thorough examination by defense counsel of Kriv's role in the bribery plan, the trial judge sustained the government's objection to

the following question: "Sir, have you ever bribed a judge in your life?" (Tr. 276).

Petitioners now assert that Kriv's answer to that question might have permitted them to show that Kriv hoped that his testimony would be considered in a decision to prosecute him for bribery (Fred Mandell Pet. 11-12, Enid Mandell and Fairchild Pet. 21). The trial court's ruling was proper, however, since Kriv already had fully detailed his role in the plan to bribe a state judge. Defense counsel could have asked whether Kriv expected that his testimony would be considered in a decision to prosecute him for his role in the plan to bribe a state judge, but he chose not to do so. Furthermore, since defense counsel made no offer of proof, there is nothing in the record to suggest that Kriv would have responded to the question at issue in the affirmative. Petitioners' allegations of prejudice are, as a consequence, wholly speculative.

Petitioners also contend that the trial court erred in sustaining a defense question concerning a civil suit that had been filed by Kriv against the Mandells. Kriv explained that he had filed a civil action against the Mandells to recover the money he had given them (Tr. 298-299). He stated that after receiving an order to appear for a deposition in connection with that action, he had caused the action to be dismissed without prejudice (Tr. 304-309). Kriv, an attorney, explained that he had moved to have the civil suit dismissed because of "trial strategy"; that is, he did not want petitioners to know the substance of his

testimony before he testified at their criminal trial (Tr. 310).[6]

Thereafter, defense counsel asked (Tr. 312): "Did either Mr. Shapiro or Mr. Benjamin [Kriv's attorneys] tell you that parties that you sue have a right to file a counterclaim against you?" The government's objection to this question was sustained by the trial judge, but not before Kriv had answered: "I am familiar with that, sir" (*ibid.*). Petitioners argue that the court's ruling prevented them from showing that Kriv may have been testifying at their criminal trial in an effort to preclude the Mandells from filing a counterclaim in a future civil suit (Fred Mandell Pet. 11, Enid Mandell and Fairchild Pet. 21). But, as noted, Kriv answered the question.

Kriv also testified that on one occasion he had violated the standards of ethics governing the conduct of attorneys by lending financial assistance to a client to permit the client to pursue a civil action (Tr. 367-368). When defense counsel asked, "[i]s that your habit, sir, as a lawyer?" the trial judge sustained the government's objection (Tr. 368). The court of appeals correctly held that defense counsel was given ample opportunity to explore Kriv's apparent violation of various ethical standards and that the trial court properly limited that inquiry in sustaining the objection referred to above (Fred Mandell Pet. App. 15). If, as petitioners contend (Fred Mandell Pet.

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[6] No person representing the government advised Kriv not to give the deposition (Tr. 361).

16, Enid Mandell and Fairchild Pet. 21), they wished to explore Kriv's possible hope that his testimony would be considered in any decision to initiate disciplinary proceedings against him, a question phrased in those terms should have been asked.

b. Ira Leon testified that as president and treasurer of the Dore Company, he had withdrawn $22,500 in company funds without the approval of the company's directors (Tr. 739-742). The only government objection sustained by the trial court during Leon's cross-examination was to the defense question, "[t]hat was an illegal transaction, then, wasn't it?" (Tr. 742).

Not only was the question improper, since it called for a legal opinion (McCormick, *On Evidence*, § 12, p. 28 (1972)), but it was subsequently answered when Leon stated in response to another question that he believed that his withdrawal of company funds had been proper (Tr. 742). Petitioners assert that they wanted to determine whether Leon hoped that his testimony would be considered in a possible prosecution against him for embezzlement (Fred Mandell Pet. 12, Enid Mandell and Fairchild Pet. 21). As before, however, defense counsel's question was not phrased in those terms.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

ROBERT H. BORK,
Solicitor General.

DECEMBER 1975.

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